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AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1948

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Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 11.3 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 16.7 for 1947. The Live Birth Rate was 17.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 17.7 for 1947. There were 2 Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 19 per 1000 live births.

No serious outbreak of Infectious Diseases has occurred.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres - - -	665
Number of Persons per acre - -	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1948) - -	3017
Number of inhabited houses - -	930
Average number of persons per house	3.3
Rateable Value - - - -	£19,974
Sum represented by a Penny Rate -	£77

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

			M.	F.	Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
Live Births	Legitimate	Total 52 :	30	22	17.6
	Illegitimate	1 :	—	1	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 2 ; Rate per 1000 Total (live and still-births) - - -	36
Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1948 - -	17.9
Deaths - 34—Males, 18 ; Females, 16 ;	
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population - - -	11.3
Death Rate, England & Wales, 1948 - -	10.8
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes	Nil.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age - -	1
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age : (per 1000 live births) - - -	19
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age : — England & Wales - -	34 per 1000
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - -	7
Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population	2.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - - Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (34).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	26

12 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years, and 5 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1947		1948	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever - -	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever - - -	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough - - -	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria - - -	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	-	1	-	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis - -	-	-	-	-
Syphilis - - -	-	-	-	-
Influenza - - -	-	1	-	-
Measles - - -	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis - -	-	-	-	-
Cancer - - - -	4	4	3	4
Diabetes - - -	-	1	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions -	3	3	5	2
Heart Disease - - -	5	4	6	5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System -	1	2	-	1
Bronchitis - - -	4	1	2	-
Pneumonia - - -	-	1	-	-
Other Respiratory Diseases - -	-	1	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum -	1	-	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) -	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis - - -	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases - -	-	-	-	1
Nephritis - - -	2	1	-	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis -	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes - -	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth - - -	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries - - -	-	-	-	-
Suicide - - - -	1	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents - -	1	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes - -	-	-	-	2
All other Causes - - -	7	1	1	1
TOTALS - -	29	21	18	16
	50		34	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

As 1938

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report - 2

	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	1	Nil	1
Sputum	1	Nil	1

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz:

Health Centres;

Care of Mothers and Young Children;

Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Vaccination and Immunisation;

Ambulance Services;

Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare;

Domestic Help.

HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are now controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

   (ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.

2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

   (ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

   The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

   (iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.

4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1948.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - 12

2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(*a*) By Owners - - - Nil.

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (2 in respect of 1947 Orders) - - - - 6

(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit - - - - Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(*a*)	(1)	Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1948) - - -	Nil.
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein -	Nil.
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein -	Nil.
(*b*)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year - - -	Nil.
(*c*)	(1)	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year - - -	Nil.
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases -	Nil.
(*d*)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding - -	Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk Supply ;

(*b*) Meat and other foods

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

(*c*), (*d*) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.

(*e*) Nutrition : No action has been taken.

(*f*) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1948.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES. under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	over 65 yrs.	Cases sent to Isolat'n Hospital.	Deaths
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	14	-	-	-	1	1	7	3	2	-	-	-	-	7	-
Whooping-cough ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	6	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	21	-	1	-	2	3	10	3	2	-	-	-	-	7	-

5. (a) Prevention of Blindness. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1948.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 ,,	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 ,,	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 ,,	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Arrangements have been made with the County Education Authorities for immunisation of Children against Diphtheria. The School Doctor treats the children and the Council provide the Prophylactic. 46 Children were "immunised"—43 under 5 years and 3 of school-age.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1948 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of: Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	4	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(*a*) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ..	2	33	16	2	—	2
(*b*) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ..		42	20	3	—	

2. Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5						5
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	6						6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7						7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8						8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9						9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) insufficient	10	1	1				10
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective .	11	2	2	—	—	—	11
(*c*) Not separate for sexes ..	12						12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13						13
TOTAL .		3	3	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you in an abbreviated form my report for the Year 1948.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses provided with Water Closets -	912	930
Houses provided with Pan Closets -	5	
Houses provided with Earth Closets -	13	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets	793	930
Houses provided with Water Closets in common	119	
Houses with Pan and Earth Closets -	18	

The houses not provided with Water Closets are situate in an outlying part of your district which is extensively used for Fire Clay Mining purposes. Sewer accommodation is not practicable.

Two insanitary Water Closets were dealt with under the provisions of Sec. 45 Public Health Act, 1936. The necessary work was carried out by the Council and the cost recovered from the Owner.

Removal of Household Refuse and Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Refuse Removal is carried out by Direct Labour. Disposal is by Tipping which is effectively controlled. The Vehicle used for the purpose is an ordinary Horse Drawn Cart fitted with removable covering to prevent the escape of dust, etc. A mechanically propelled one would increase the cost of the service out of due proportion. If the present arrangement is not an ideal one it is certainly efficient and economical. Sanitary Dust Bins of Galvanized Iron are in use for all Houses with the exception of those having Pan or Earth Closets.

11 Houses were provided with Sanitary Bins for the household ashes and refuse in response to Preliminary Notices and for 1 house as a consequence of Statutory Action.

9 Tons of Waste Paper were collected, baled and sold. The bulk of it was obtained from industrial undertakings.

Housing.

The number of Houses is now 930—an increase of 43 over 1947. During the year 46 permanent houses have been erected by the Council and brought into occupation. 5 similar houses erected by Private Enterprise have been completed and occupied. 8 houses have been demolished leaving a net gain of 43. The provision of further houses is receiving consideration. Suitable sites are becoming scarce.

Allocation of the Council Houses is made on a simple "Points" system. The most urgent cases receive prior consideration as a result.

Housing Conditions.

The houses in your District may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom - -	1	930
Houses with two Bedrooms - -	316	
Houses with three Bedrooms - -	527	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms	86	

Eight "unfit" houses have been demolished. Demolition orders were made in respect of Nos. 21/22 Brettell Lane and Nos, 4, 5, 6, 7 Box Hill. Nos. 22 and 65 High Street were demolished voluntarily by the Owners.

The following Houses have been dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936, viz. :—By Statutory Notices :—Nos. 21/22, Brettell Lane ; 4, 5, 6, 7 Box Hill and by Informal Notices :—Nos. 46, 86 and 88 High Street, 17/18, 37/38 and 67 Brettell Lane ; 49/50 Platts Crescent ; Nos. 144, 145, 146 King William Street and No. 1 Villa Street and 2 Vale Street.

Shortage of essential Materials still makes it difficult to get major repairs attended to.

Nuisances, etc. within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 were dealt with at 49 Houses.

Overcrowding.—There is little overcrowding on the scale laid down in the Housing Act, 1936. The average number of persons per house has fallen from 3.5 to 3.3. A number of houses are occupied by two families, generally related to each other. Newly married couples have considerable difficulty in obtaining separate accommodation.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

Bedrooms of one house were found to be infested. Owing to the difficulty in finding temporary accommodation for the occupiers disinfestation has not yet been carried out.

Water Supply.

With one exception all premises receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The principal Bore Holes (at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow) are situated in your District. Samples of Water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are taken at frequent intervals. The Laboratories are provided by the County Council. The Reports indicate a certain Hardness but otherwise the Water is of excellent quality for drinking. Close co-operation is maintained with the Engineer to the Board.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

Producers of Milk 2. They are also Retail Purveyors.

Sterilised Milk, in bottles only, is retailed in 8 Shops.

Milk—Special Designations Order: 2 Licences issued to sell "Pasteurised Milk" and 2 to sell "Tuberculin Tested." They are "Secondary" Licences only.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No Slaughter-house is used in this District. Three Retail Butchers are supplied with Meat from a Central Depot at Brierley Hill which is controlled by the Ministry of Food.

Inspections of live animals and carcases are carried out there by qualified inspectors.

Other foods are retailed in the following shops, viz.:—Grocers 4, General 10 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Greengrocers, etc. 6 (2 lock-up shops and 4 part shops and part dwelling houses), Sweets and Tobacco 2 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Fried Fish 3 (part shops and part dwelling houses) Cafes 1.

Food poisoning outbreaks—Nil.

Unsound Food—The following unsound food was surrendered and destroyed, viz.:—Tinned Fish, Veal Loaf, Fruit and Fruit Juice, Milk, Peas—24 Tins.

Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream for Sale is manufactured in your district. It is sold by retail at one Café and from an occasional barrow of the "stop-me-and-buy-one" type.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

1 hospital, 5 factories, 1 dwelling house and one refuse tip have been disinfested. Arrangements have been made for quarterly treatment of 2 factories. The actual work was carried out through the good offices of Mr. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Brierley Hill Urban District Council. The Sewers have not been tested. Previous results were definitely negative and the circumstances remain unchanged.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

3 factory chimneys have been under observation for excessive emissions of smoke. The Ministry of Fuel and Power have been consulted in one case. The conditions have been improved.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.